

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 CU-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 PER-01 A-01 MMO-01

/048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, SCUL, RW

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF USIS AMONG THE "UNLUCKY SEVEN"

REF (A) BUJUMBURA 374 (B) KIGALI 370

1. AMBASSADOR MARK'S APPEAL FOR MORE SENSIBLE SUPPORT OF INFO AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT HIS POST AND SIX OTHER "UNLUCKIES" IN AFRICA IS FERVENTLY SECONDED BY KIGALI. OUR CULTURAL CENTER, STRUGGLING TO STAY AFLOAT AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF PAO AND ALL BUT A PITTANCE IN USIA BUDGETARY SUPPORT, IS FRANKLY AN EMBARRASMENT TO THE U.S. OUR INFO ACTIVITIES, INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS U.S. GROWS MORE ACTIVE IN AFRICA, ARE RUDIMENTARY AT BEST. SINCE ARRIVING HERE, I'VE WAVERED BETWEEN ASSIGNING ONE OF OUR FSO'S TO INFO/CULTURAL DUTIES FULLTIME AND CLOSING THE CENTER DOWN ALTOGETHER.

2. AS I STRESSED IN OUR RECENT PARM, GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS TO KEY RWANDANS IS ONE OF OUR MAIN TASKS HERE -- PARTLY SO THAT RWANDANS WILL UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA (AND WHY), AND PARTLY SO THAT THEY UNDERSTAND BEYOND QUESTION WHAT WE HOPE THEY AND OTHER AFRICANS WILL DO. RIGHT NOW, THEY

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FIND OUR SIGNALS TERRIBLY CONFUSING. EVEN WHEN DISPOSED TO WIN OUR FAVOR, THEY HARDLY KNOW HOW TO BEGIN (E.G. THEY ARE SURPRISED THAT THEIR TOUGH ANTI-SOVIET STANCE NO LONGER SETS OFF PAVLOVIAN BELLS WITH US). AND THEIR IGNORANCE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR RWANDA, BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, IS ABYSMAL.

3. FOR THESE AND MANY OTHER REASONS, I AM VERY KEEN ON
UPGRADING KIGALI'S USIS PROGRAM, AND I APPRECIATE AMB.
MARK'S SUGGESTION THAT A FULLTIME PAO IN BUJUMBURA MIGHT BE
AVAILABLE PARTTIME TO HELP KIGALI WITH ITS UPGRADING.
AS NOTED IN THE PARM, I INTEND TO ASSIGN OUR NEW DCM THE
TASK OF ORGANIZING THIS SALVAGE OPERATIONBN AND IF HE COULD
COUNT ON REGULAR SUPPORT AND ADVICE FROM A "REAL" USIS
OFFICER IN BUMUMBURA THIS WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS HELP.
EVENTUALLY, OF COURSE, KIGALI TOO WOULD HOPE TO HAVE ITS
OWN PAO IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE.
CRIGLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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